Import of Coal Machinery

5688. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of machines imported for B.C.C.L. during the last three years;

(b) whether these are operating in accordance with their capacity;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether penalty has been imposed on the foreign suppliers for the machines which had not worked in accordance with their capacity;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Details of machines imported for Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. during the last three years are as under :

S.No.	Description	Quantity	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1.	Wet Drum Magnetic Separator	1	3.68
2.	Breathing Apparatus BG-174	19	33
3.	Pumping Unit	12	220.16
4.	Submersible Pumps	8	171.32

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) to (f). In view of reply to part (b) above, the question does not arise.

Prices of Coal

5689. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of different qualities of coal have gone up by 10 to 20% in the recent months after these were decontrolled;

(b) if so, the details of the said price rise in respect of the different qualities of coal, grade-wise, during the last six months;

(c) whether after nationalisation of coal sector, the production of coal has witnessed only five to six per cent increase whereas the prices thereof have been increase twelve times;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices of coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). The details of the deregulated varieties of coal and prices fixed for each of them by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) alongwith the percentage increase are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The current average price of coal produced by CIL is Rs. 469.02 per tonne which is about 12.5 times of the average price of Rs. 37.50 per tonne at the time of nationalisation.

The current average price of coal produced by SCCL is Rs. 530 per tonne which is about 10.5 times of the average price of Rs. 50.50 per tonne after nationalisation.

The coal production by CIL and SCCL together during 1995-96 is 264.05 million tonnes (approximately) which is about 3.51 times of 75.27 m.t. of coal produced by these two companies during 1973-74.

(d) Coal prices are increased owing to escalation in the cost of various inpus, increase in wages, etc. whereas coal production is increased over the years to meet the targetted demands of various sectors of economy. The increase in coal prices has, therefore, no nexus with the increase in coal production.

(e) The main factors influencing the cost of production of coal are the increase in the cost of inputs and wages, over which the coal companies do not have any direct control. The Government attempts to control prices by taking steps to check inflation in the economy and by insisting that productivity is improved.

STATEMENT

Coal prices fixed by CIL and SCCL in March-April, 1996 after the Government decision on deregulation of pricing of coking coal and A,B & C grades of non-coking coal—percentages of increase after such price fixation.

(i) CIL (Rs. per tonne)

Categories of Coal	CIL subsidiaries other than MCL & WCL as revised on 1.4.1996	MCL as revised on 1.4.1996	WCL as revised on 22.3.96
1	2	3	4
Coking Coal			
SG-I	1310 (25%)	1310 (25%)	1310 (25%)
SG-II	1094 (25.2%)	1094 (25.2%)	1094 (25.2%)
Washery-I	948 (25.06%)	948 (25.06%)	948 (25.06%)
Washery-II	785 (25%)	785 (25%)	785 (25%)